

REMARKS

The rejection has been considered at length. However, for the reasons set forth below, it is believed that the claimed subject matter would not have been rendered obvious by the cited reference.

Claims 1, 3-5 and 8-31 are pending, and claims 1, 3-5, 8-10, 12 and 17-22 have been examined on the merits. Claim 1 has been amended hereinabove and claims 32 and 33 have been added. Support for new claims 32 and 33 can be found in original claims 22 and 23. No new matter has been added.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner requested the change of the status identifier of claims 13, 15, 17, 23, 27-29 and 31. Applicants changed the status identifier of the claims listed in the Final Office Action as required. However, as claim 23 depends from claim 1 and claim 24 depends from claim 23, Applicants drafted new claims 32 and 33 directed to the same subject matter of claims 23 and 33 and respectfully request that they be rejoined and examined together with the remaining claims.

In the Final Office Action, claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, as being indefinite and claims 1, 3-5, 8-10, 12 and 17-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Yamada (U.S. Patent No. 5,024,927, hereinafter “Yamada”). Claim 1 has now been amended to overcome the indefiniteness rejection. Thus, the claimed subject matter is now directed to a method for applying a hybrid coating which comprises precursors activated in two or more separate plasma sources. Accordingly, as Yamada discloses precursors activated in one plasma sources, it is respectfully submitted that Yamada is neither an anticipatory reference nor it would have rendered obvious the claimed subject matter to one skilled in the art.

Applicants wish to incorporate as a reference the response to Office Action filed on March 31, 2009. In addition, Applicants wish to add the following additional remarks. As submitted above, the claimed subject matter is directed to a method for applying a hybrid coating to a substrate which coating comprises an inorganic and organic component and which inorganic component comprises nanoparticles. The inorganic component is generated in a high electron density high-frequency pulsed plasma. As described in the present specification on page 14, lines 18-22, the plasma is pulsed to liberate the particles captured in the plasma volume and to effect the deposition on the substrate to be coated. Thus, the use of a pulsed plasma specifically contributes to the formation of an inorganic/organic hybrid coating comprising nanoparticles. Applicants respectfully submit that Yamada is completely silent with regard to the presently claimed method described above.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that for these additional reasons, the pending claims are all patentable over the prior art, in that Yamada does not anticipate nor would have render obvious the claimed subject matter.

This response is being filed within the shortened statutory period for response, thus, no fees are believed to be due. If, on the other hand, it is determined that further fees are necessary or any overpayment has been made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit or credit such sum to Deposit Account No. 02-2275.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), please treat this and any concurrent or future reply in this application that requires a petition for an extension of time of its timely submission as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. The fee associated herewith is to be charged to the above-mentioned deposit account.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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